

July 18, 2017

Kris Monteith  
Acting Wireline Competition Bureau Chief  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 Twelfth Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re:   *Protecting and Promoting The Open Internet*, GN Docket No. 14-28, *Connect America Fund*, WC Docket No. 10-90, *Developing a Unified Intercarrier Compensation Regime*, CC Docket No. 01-92**

Dear Ms. Monteith:

Pursuant to the Federal Communications Commission's ("FCC" or "Commission") *Open Internet Order*,<sup>1</sup> Bruce Telephone Company, Inc. ("BTC" or the "Company") hereby notifies the Wireline Competition Bureau ("WCB" or "Bureau") of its intention to cease offering its broadband Internet transmission service as a separate component of its broadband Internet access service effective September 16, 2017. As such, the transmission component will not be provided as a separate regulated service and will only be provided as part of the complete broadband Internet access service that the Company offers to end user customers, either through the Company or through an affiliated company.

Bruce Telephone Company, Inc. currently provides broadband Internet transmission service as a detariffed Title II offering. The only customer for the Company's broadband Internet transmission service is the Company's affiliate nonregulated ISP. Notice to the affiliate ISP was provided this date by interoffice memorandum that the Company will discontinue the offering of broadband Internet transmission service as a separate component of its broadband Internet access service effective September 16, 2017.

The Commission made clear in the *Rate-of-Return Connect America Fund Order*,<sup>2</sup> as well as the *Clarification Order*,<sup>3</sup> that a rate-of-return carrier could make the retail offering described in the foregoing first paragraph, and thus the revenues associated with the broadband Internet access

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<sup>1</sup> *Protecting and Promoting the Open Internet*, GN Docket No. 14-28, Report and Order on Remand, Declaratory Ruling and Order, 30 FCC Rcd 5601, ¶ 460 and n. 1378 (2015).

<sup>2</sup> *Connect America Fund*, WC Docket Nos. 10-90, et al., Report and Order, Order and Order on Reconsideration and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, FCC 16-33, ¶ 194, n. 428 (rel. Mar. 30, 2016).

<sup>3</sup> *Connect America Fund*, WC Docket Nos. 10-90, et al., Order DA 16-661, ¶ 25 (WCB, rel. June 15, 2016) (citing the *Open Internet Order*).

transmission would no longer be subject to the federal universal service assessment pursuant to FCC Form 499-A.

This notice is effective 60 days from the date of this letter unless withdrawn or extended prior to that time.

Please contact the undersigned if you have any questions,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Alexander', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Christa L. Alexander

Vice President of Operations

Fulton Telephone Company, Inc.

cc: Pamela Arluk, Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau Pricing Policy Division  
Special Assistant for Telecommunications at the Department of Defense  
Mississippi Public Service Commission  
Phil Bryant, Governor of Mississippi

## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that the foregoing Notification of Discontinuance of broadband Internet transmission service as a separate component of its broadband Internet access service was served this 18th day of July, 2017 by mailing true and correct copies thereof, postage prepaid, to the following persons:

Secretary of Defense

Attn: Special Assistant for Telecommunications

1000 Defense Pentagon

Washington, D.C. 20301-1000

Mississippi Public Service Commission

501 North West Street, Suite 201-A

Jackson, MS 39201

Phil Bryant, Governor of Mississippi

P.O. Box 139

Jackson, MS 39205